

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to make editorial changes therein including those noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-19 were previously pending in the application. New claim 20 is added. Therefore, claims 1-20 are presented for consideration.

Claims 3, 6 and 11 are amended to address the claim objections noted in the Official Action. As to claim 3, the term "swiveled" is changed to "rotatable" to clarify the movement of the rear housing with respect to the front housing member. As to claim 6, the term "attached" is changed to "that is attachable" to clarify that the coupling member is attachable to the front and rear housing members. As to claim 11, the term "pivotal axis" is changed to "pivot element" to define the structure of that which pivots.

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that the claim objections are addressed and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-19 are rejected as anticipated by applicant's disclosed prior art Figures 11-21 in view of KIM 6,512,558. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended and recites that the front housing member and the rear housing member are hingedly coupled together via a coupling structure. A similar limitation was originally presented in claim 8.

The position set forth in the Official Action as to claim 8 is that Figure 6 of KIM illustrates that one of the coupling members is in the shape of a bracket (flexible joint). However, this characterization of KIM is not supported by the disclosure of KIM.

Figure 6 of KIM shows a rear housing 200 and a front housing 100. As disclosed on column 4, lines 35-38 of KIM, a fastening member 320 fastens the front housing 100 to the rear housing 200 through a fastening hole 130 via a fastening boss 230. Fastening boss 230 is neither a flexible joint as noted in the Official Action nor are the front and rear housing members hingedly coupled together via the coupling structure as recited.

KIM further discloses a bracket 220. However, as disclosed on column 4, lines 27-30 of KIM, bracket 220 has display module 1 (backlight port 1a and liquid crystal panel 1b) mounted thereon. Such bracket is not a coupling structure for hingedly coupling together the front and rear housing members.

Moreover, KIM neither teaches that bracket 22 is a coupling structure for hingedly coupling together elements or even that bracket 220 is flexible.

Applicant's disclosed prior art does not teach or suggest that the front housing member and the rear housing member are hingedly coupled together via a coupling structure.

The above-noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination, and thus is not obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 2-14 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

In addition, the dependent claims include features not disclosed by the combination of references. Claim 3 provides that the rear housing member is rotatable with respect to the front housing member from a first open position to permit assembly of the panel unit within the housing to a second closed position to cover the lateral and rear sides of the backlight and panel unit. See for example Figures 1A and 1B and the relevant disclosure that teach rotation from an open position as seen in Figure 1B to a closed position as seen in Figure 1A.

Claim 4 provides that the rear housing member includes a plurality of rear housing members. Figure 6 of KIM (offered in the Official Action as teaching this feature) shows a single housing member 200.

Claim 8 provides that the coupling member includes a hinge element having a reduced central portion (see, for example, Figure 9).

Claim 10 provides that the coupling structure includes a pivot element and a slot formed on respective ones of the front and rear housing members (see Figures 10A and 10B, for example).

Claim 12 provides that the coupling structure includes a hook and a hook hold engaged with the hook. See also Figure 9, for example.

The proposed combination of references fails to teach these features and thus the above-noted dependent claims are believed patentable regardless of the patentability of the claims from which they depend.

Independent claim 15 includes a coupling structure for rotatably coupling together a front housing member and a rear housing member. The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to claim 15. Claims 16-19 depend from claim 15 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

New claim 20 is added and provides that the rear housing member is hingedly connected to the front housing member. The analysis above regarding claim 1 is equally applicable to new claim 20. Support for the new claim can be found in Figures 1A and 1B and the accompanying text.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing Remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

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